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CLAIMS

1. A shutter for an end of a rain gutter of the type having spaced front and rear sidewalls connected together by a base member and suitable for mounting along and under the overhang of a roof of a building and co-operating with at least one downpipe attached to said gutter, said shutter including:

a frame adapted to be connected to said end of said gutter, said frame defining an aperture; and

a plate adapted to slide within said frame from a closed position which substantially prevents exit of debris collected in said gutter through said aperture to an open position allowing exit of said debris through said aperture;

wherein said frame is adapted not to impede flow of said debris along said base member as said debris is discharged through said aperture.

2. A shutter as defined in Claim 1 wherein said plate is removable from said frame.

3. A kit for use in the removal of debris from a rain gutter of the type having spaced front and rear sidewalls connected together by a base member and suitable for mounting along and under the overhang of a roof of a building and co-operating with at least one downpipe attached to said gutter, said kit including:

a shutter as defined in Claim 1 or Claim 2; and

at least one blanking plate adapted to be removably retained in said downpipe to substantially prevent water and said debris from exiting through said downpipe.

4. A method to remove debris from a rain gutter of the type having spaced front and rear sidewalls connected together by a base member and suitable for mounting along and under the overhang of a roof of a building and co-operating with at least one downpipe attached to said gutter, said method including:

fixing a shutter as defined in Claim 1 or Claim 2 to an end of said rain gutter;

moving said plate to said open position;

if required, before, simultaneously with or after said moving of said plate, affixing a blanking plate to said downpipe to substantially prevent water and said debris from exiting through said downpipe;

flushing said debris along said base member of said gutter and through said aperture;

after said flushing is completed, in any order, returning said plate to said closed position and removing any said blanking plate from said downpipe.

5. A method as defined in Claim 4 which, after said plate has been moved to said open position, further includes:

fixing a net over said aperture to collect any said debris as it exits through said aperture; and

removing said net from said aperture before returning said plate to said closed position.